

ANNEX AClaim 1 - (Twice amended)

A method of automatically processing an image comprising the steps of locating, within the image, features having a high spatial variance by:

thresholding [the features to produce a thresholded binary image] and skeletonising the image to produce an image comprising single pixel width definition of features;

discarding features of the [thresholded binary] produced image having a size less than a predetermined size; and

stroking the image with a series of brush strokes emanating from remaining features [having high spatial variance] of the produced image.

Claim 5 - (please delete claim 5 without prejudice)

Claim 6 - (Please delete claim 6 without prejudice)

Claim 7 - (Twice amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discarding comprises discarding located features having a size of less than 20 contiguous pixels.